



The Grand Commandery of Knights Templars

ORGANIZED 1805

AND THE APPENDANT ORDERS OF

Massachusetts and Rhode Island

October 7, 1949

To all Commanders and Recorders of Constituent Commanderies under the jurisdiction of the Grand Commandery of Knights Templar of Massachusetts and Rhode Island:

The following letter from the Most Eminent Grand Master, Sir Knight Robert Brainerd Gaylord is forwarded for your information:

"September 26, 1949

Sir Knight George A. Weeks
R. E. Grand Recorder
Masonic Temple
Boston, Mass.

Ruling:--Uniform Legislation

My dear Grand Recorder:

Several questions arise in connection with the legislation regarding uniform at the recent San Francisco Conclave, most of which are impossible to answer without a careful examination of the Reporter's transcript.

1. It is the usual rule that all legislation is effective immediately when adopted; I have reviewed the constitution and statutes and find nothing to the contrary in this instance. Therefore, the ruling will be that all legislation adopted at this Conclave was effective immediately upon adoption.
2. In general discussion on the floor it was stated by a member of the Jurisprudence Committee that the effect of the legislation making a uniform optional was to leave that option to the candidate and not to either the Commandery or the Grand Commandery except as hereinafter stated. There was so much confusion during the discussion that this statement should not be accepted as authoritative until I have had an opportunity to review the Reporter's transcript and know exactly what transpired and exactly the language of the legislation as finally adopted. Until then, it is impossible to state with whom that option rests and the option should not be extended to a candidate for personal exercise until a definite ruling has been made. If the question is involved in pending or contemplated petitions, action should be deferred until there is a ruling.
3. It seems reasonably certain from the oral recitals during the Conclave that each Grand Commandery has the right to make the purchase of a uniform a prerequisite to the Orders. Whether or not existing legislation to that effect by Grand Commanderies is automatically continued in force and whether or not it is retroactive to petitions already presented, is another question which requires a review of the transcript before a ruling is made.

Sir Knight George A. Weeks

4. The same situation exists as to the use of deposits heretofore made for uniforms but not already applied to that purpose. Possibly if the option rests with the candidate and if the uniform has not been purchased already, a refund to the candidate will be in order; this, however, requires careful study of the legislation. It seems reasonably certain that in no event will the money become a part of the general funds of the Commandery; that, again, however, necessitates careful study.

For temporary purposes and pending a final ruling, the ruling of the Grand Master is as follows:

A. No petition shall be received under the option clause, whether exercised by candidate, Commandery or Grand Commandery, until a final ruling has been issued.

B. No refunds or other use of deposit shall be made except to apply the deposit to the purchase of the uniform until the final ruling has been made.

C. Until a final ruling has been made the option shall not be exercised by candidate, Commandery or Grand Commandery as applied to a candidate who had been elected but who has received either none or only a portion of the orders.

This distribution of the order will be deemed a promulgation of the ruling; the ruling itself is effective as of the date of this letter.

Courteously yours,

/s/ Robert B. Gaylord
Grand Master

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Courteously,

/s/ George A. Weeks
GRAND RECORDER.